

SEYMOUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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To: The Federal Communications Commission
From: Seymour, Ct Public School District
Re: CC Docket No 02-06
Date: September 11, 2008

The Seymour Public Schools lends its strong support to the proposed addition of "telephone broadcast messaging" to the list of services eligible for support under the Schools and Libraries E-rate program.

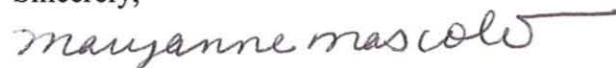
It is well established that improving communications between and among educators, students and parents plays a vital role in improving educational performance in elementary and secondary schools. The Seymour Public Schools implemented "telephone broadcast messaging" several years ago because it offered significant advantages and benefits over the traditional means that were previously utilized to communicate with the stakeholder community (i.e. written notices or phone tree message systems).

The Seymour Public Schools utilizes our Black Board Connect system to contact parents regarding absences / truanancies, notification of testing schedules, PTA meetings, parent teacher conferences, etc. The system has demonstrably increased participation by parents in their children's education.

One of the primary benefits of the telephone broadcast messaging system is the instantaneous capability to contact parents in emergency situations, such as weather related events, health or civil emergencies, or other incidents that require schools to lock down or transfer students to safe locations.

In enacting the E-rate program in 1996, Congress recognized that many schools and libraries have limited resources that constrain their access to emerging technologies that can enhance and support the educational mission. Telephone broadcast messaging, which allows schools to more efficiently and effectively communicate with parents and students, is a prime example of such an emerging technology and should be included within the E-rate program's list of eligible services.

Sincerely,



Mary Anne Mascolo, Superintendent of Schools
Seymour Public Schools

